



# *Proclamation*

## *Presented*

### **In Recognition of Mental Health Month**

**WHEREAS, Mental Health Month** emphasizes that mental wellness is critical for the well-being and vitality of ourselves and our communities; and

**WHEREAS, Mental Health Month** underlines that in any given year, one in five children, adolescents, and adults experience a mental illness, and erroneous and ignorant beliefs about mental illness cause shame and stigma which prevent people from getting the help they need; and

**WHEREAS, Mental Health Month** raises awareness that many suffering from severe mental illness do not get the services they need and become homeless or incarcerated, and that Hawai'i has one of the highest rates in the nation of middle and high school students planning or attempting suicide; and

**WHEREAS, Mental Health Month** underscores that people with mental illness are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of violence, and people with severe mental illness die an average of 25 years earlier than people without mental illnesses; and

**WHEREAS, Mental Health Month** recognizes that Hawai'i has made a commitment to community-based systems of mental health care based on the belief that recovery is possible and treatment works; and

**WHEREAS, Mental Health Month** reiterates that the U.S. Surgeon General has found that there is a wide range of effective treatments for mental health disorders; and

**WHEREAS, Mental Health America of Hawai'i** observes Mental Health Month to raise awareness of mental health and mental illness, as there is no health without mental health;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor** for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May, 2014, as

### **"MENTAL HEALTH MONTH"**

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recommitting our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness, and to providing appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirteenth day of May, 2014.

  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i